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#7/Reconsideration
7-15-03
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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q67077

Toshiharu KAJITA

Appln. No.: 09/985,847

Group Art Unit: 3682

Confirmation No.: 4461

Examiner: Matthew C. Graham

Filed: November 06, 2001

For: BALL SCREW

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 3, 2003, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese 11-315835 (hereinafter JP '835). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because JP '835 fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness in that there is no motivation to modify JP '835 as suggested by the Examiner.

A critical step in analyzing the patentability of claims pursuant to §103(a) is casting the mind back to the time of invention, to consider the thinking of one of ordinary skill in the art, guided only by the prior art references and the then-accepted wisdom in the field. See *In re Kotzab*, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1316 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (citing *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999, 50